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Fiftieth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 100

RENEWAL OF THE DIALOGUE ON STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.11

Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/165 of 21 December 1993 and 49/95 of 19 December 1994 on renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Secretary-General to encourage a constructive dialogue for enhancing development and to facilitate actions in that regard,

Noting also the ongoing work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on an Agenda for Development,

Recognizing that the continued trend towards deepening interdependence among countries and the increasing globalization of economic issues and problems present risks and uncertainties as well as opportunities and challenges for the dialogue on international economic cooperation,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership; 1/

2. Reaffirms that such a dialogue should be conducted in response to the imperatives of mutual interests and benefits, genuine interdependence, shared responsibility and the partnership for achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development as well as improving the international economic environment that is conducive to such development, and that the United Nations should reinforce its activities in order to facilitate such a dialogue;

3. Stresses the need to put development at the centre of United Nations activities and that the United Nations has a central role to play in promoting international economic cooperation for development and in bringing development issues to the attention of the international community;

4. Recognizes that the ongoing discussions in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Development and its outcome aim at strengthening constructive dialogue with a view to enhancing and revitalizing international economic cooperation for development through increased partnership among and between countries;

5. Agrees to hold a high-level dialogue for a period of two days at the fifty-first session of the General Assembly - the date, modalities and focus of the discussion to be decided on in the context of the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Development and the decision taken on the adoption of the Agenda - on the theme of the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications, and requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with Governments, relevant organizations and other development actors, to make initial preparations for such a dialogue;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit further recommendations for enhancing the dialogue, taking into consideration the agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council on coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, 2/ the outcome of the ongoing discussions in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Development, and on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session for its consideration, recommendations on possible future themes for dialogue, including the issues of regional integration and of new information technology and the global economy;

1/ A/50/480.

2/ A/50/3, chap. III, para. 22.

8. Further requests the Secretary-General to elaborate his proposals to convene special sessions of the General Assembly, on major issues relevant to the dialogue on international economic cooperation for development, including those identified in an Agenda for Development;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session a sub-item entitled "Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership" under the item entitled "Agenda for Development".

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.25

Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the continuing validity of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, 1/ and recalling the relevant paragraphs of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 2/ the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 3/ the Cartagena Commitment, 4/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session, the relevant recommendations and decisions adopted by the United Nations Conference

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1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and corrigenda), chap. VII.

2/ Resolution S-18/3, annex.

3/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

4/ See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Eighth Session, Report and Annexes (TD/364/Rev.1) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.II.D.5), part one, sect. A.

on Environment and Development, particularly those contained in Agenda 21, 5/ and the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by organizations and bodies of the United Nations system concerning science and technology for development,

Bearing in mind the vital contribution of science and technology, including new and emerging technologies, to the promotion of economic growth and development, particularly in developing countries, and stressing the importance of monitoring new developments in science and technology and their implications for society, on production, employment and international competitiveness, especially for developing countries,

Recognizing the importance for developing countries of having access to science and technology so as to enhance their productivity and competitiveness in the world market, and stressing the need to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how, in particular to the developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries,

Stressing the primary responsibility of all countries for their own science and technology policies, and the need to further promote endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries so as to enable them to participate in, benefit from and contribute to the rapid advances in science and technology,

Recognizing that information technologies are important requisites for planning, development and decision-making in science and technology, and recognizing also their far-reaching implications for society,

Recognizing the importance of developing countries' own efforts in the field of science and technology for development,

Reaffirming that the United Nations should play an important role in the promotion of cooperation in science and technology, and in the enhancement of support and assistance to developing countries in their efforts to achieve the objectives set forth by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in this regard,

Recognizing the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in promoting the developing countries' endogenous capacity in science and technology, and recognizing its unique function as a global forum for the examination of science and technology questions, for the improvement of the understanding of science and technology policies for development and for the formulation of recommendations and guidelines on science and technology matters within the United Nations system, all in relation to development,

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5/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

Recognizing the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in science and technology for development, as reaffirmed in General Assembly resolution 48/179 of 21 December 1993,

Recognizing the need for adequate resources to be devoted to fostering science and technology for development,

Recognizing the special needs and requirements of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, especially those in Africa,

Also recognizing the relevant problems of countries with economies in transition in the sphere of the transformation and development of their scientific and technological potentials,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of programme 17 (Science and technology for development) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, 6/

1. Reaffirms the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995 on the basis of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its second session; 7/

2. Reaffirms that capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries should remain a priority issue in the United Nations agenda, and urges that international cooperation efforts be intensified and strengthened towards developing countries' endogenous capacity-building in science and technology, including their capacity to utilize scientific and technological developments from abroad as well as to modify and adapt them to suit local conditions;

3. Calls upon the international community to meet all the objectives affirmed in chapter 34 of Agenda 21, 5/ in particular those dealing with effective access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, including new and emerging technologies and publicly owned technologies, to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries, so as to contribute to enabling those developing countries to meet their development-related challenges;

4. Stresses that it is important for developing countries to adopt and implement their own science and technology policies that support the national effort to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development in the light of their respective national conditions, needs, priorities and objectives;

6/ A/50/649.

7/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 11 (E/1995/31).

5. Stresses the need to strengthen the vital role of the United Nations in the field of science and technology, particularly through effective policy guidance and better coordination, including in international cooperation in technology assessment, monitoring and forecasting;

6. Recognizes the role of the private sector in science and technology for development, in particular in the transfer and development of science and technology capabilities;

7. Also recognizes the role of Governments in science and technology for development, in particular in providing appropriate regulatory frameworks and incentives for the development of science and technology capabilities;

8. Requests the relevant organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations, in the spirit of coordination that should prevail in the activities of the United Nations system in the field of science and technology for development, to work in a coordinated manner to develop a catalogue of proved technologies that will enable developing countries to make effective choices from among state-of-the-art technologies;

9. Calls upon the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development to interact more effectively, through the Economic and Social Council, in carrying out their respective mandates;

10. Calls upon the supporting secretariats of the Commission on Science and Technology and the Commission on Sustainable Development to improve their interaction;

11. Takes note of the developments at the Consultative Meeting on a Coalition of Resources for Science and Technology for Development and welcomes the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development should provide a forum for exchanging views and interaction among partners of different networks and coordination schemes;

12. Reaffirms the need for adequate financial resources on a continuous and assured basis to foster science and technology for development, in particular to promote endogenous capacity-building in developing countries in accordance with their priorities;

13. Notes with appreciation the measures taken by the Secretary-General in response to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 48/179 and invites him to continue to take all necessary measures, including to explore the possibility of organizing a more effective coalition of resources within the United Nations development system, multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks and bilateral funding agencies to ensure the full implementation of programme 17, Science and technology for development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and the activities planned for 1996-1997 in the field of science and technology for development, in accordance with specific mandates provided for in the relevant Assembly resolutions;

14. Takes note that enhanced cooperation could help focus the activities of the United Nations system in the field of science and technology for development so that they would have a greater impact;

15. Recognizes the importance of cooperation among developing countries in the field of science and technology, building on their complementarities, and the need of further advancing such cooperation through the establishment and/or the strengthening of national technology and information centres in developing countries and their networking on regional, subregional and interregional and global levels to promote technology research, training and dissemination as well as joint projects in developing countries, and urges the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and programmes to provide continued and enhanced support, through technical assistance and financing for such efforts;

16. Requests the relevant organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to continue to promote the development of effective and mutually beneficial technological cooperation between countries with economies in transition and all other countries, including in the area of new and emerging technologies;

17. Notes the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the decision of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to select information technologies as the main substantive theme of its work during the inter-sessional period 1995-1997 and to set up panels and/or working groups to analyse, and elaborate and make recommendations on issues pertaining to information technologies and their implications for development;

18. Takes note of the decision of the Economic and Social Council to invite the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to consider ways and means for the formulation of a common vision regarding the future contribution of science and technology for development, taking advantage of the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, held at Vienna in 1979;

19. Stresses the potentially important role that the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development should play in enhancing endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries, and calls on all countries in a position to so to contribute generously to the Fund;

20. Reaffirms the need for Governments, regional and international bodies to take measures to ensure women that women have equal access to and equal opportunity to participate in scientific and technological areas, especially in areas where they are not represented or are underrepresented;

21. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.28

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, in which it decided to establish the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling its resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, in which it endorsed the recommendations on international institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as contained in chapter 38 of Agenda 21, 1/ in which, inter alia, the need for a strengthened role for the United Nations Environment Programme and its Governing Council was stressed and priority areas on which the Programme should concentrate were elaborated,

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

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Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eighteenth session, 2/ the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the Programme, 3/ the note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the Programme in environmental monitoring, 4/ and the note by the Secretary-General on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, 5/

1. Endorses the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eighteenth session and the decisions contained therein; 6/

2. Recognizes, in particular, Governing Council decisions 18/1 on the role and priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme, 18/5 on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on environment, 18/7 on environment and sustainable development and 18/10 on good environmental housekeeping within the United Nations system; 7/

3. Requests the Governing Council to prepare a report on the role and activities of the Programme in the implementation of Agenda 21, in accordance with its mandate, and to submit that report to the General Assembly at its special session on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;

4. Notes the importance of sufficient and timely contributions to the Environment Fund, and calls upon Governments to make contributions in a timely fashion in order to allow for the full and effective implementation of the work programmes;

5. Welcomes the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme to promote maximum and cost-effective utilization of the conference facilities at its headquarters in Nairobi, and calls upon Governments and relevant intergovernmental bodies to support such efforts to ensure optimum utilization of the capacity of all United Nations conference facilities;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to inform the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/50/25).

3/ A/50/171.

4/ A/50/371.

5/ A/C.2/50/2.

6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/50/25), annex.

7/ Ibid.

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Agenda item 95 (g)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.34

Developing human resources for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 48/205 of 21 December 1993, 46/143 of 17 December 1991 and 45/191 of 21 December 1990, as well as its resolutions S-18/3 of 1 May 1990 and 45/199 of 21 December 1990,

Reaffirming that people are central to all activities related to development and that human resources development is an essential means of achieving sustainable development goals,

Recognizing that human resources development should contribute to total human development which enlarges the choices available to people in developing their lives and fulfilling their aspirations and that there is a need to integrate human resources development into comprehensive strategies for human development which mainstreams a gender perspective, taking into account the needs of all people, in particular the needs of women,

Stressing that there is need for a supportive and favourable international economic environment which will enhance human development in developing countries and promote economic growth and development,

Recognizing that, while economic reforms and structural adjustment programmes are intended to promote economic growth and development, elements of such programmes may have a possibly adverse impact on human resources development, and also that there is a need to take action, in the formulation and implementation of these programmes, to mitigate any negative effects,

Stressing the need for adequate resources to enhance the capacity of Governments of developing countries to promote human resources development in pursuit of their national programmes, plans and strategies for development,

Stressing also that Governments of developing countries have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development,

Recognizing the vital role that South-South and North-South cooperation plays in supporting national efforts in human resources development, bilaterally as well as multilaterally,

Emphasizing the need for coordination and integration among the organs and organizations of the United Nations system in assisting developing countries to foster the development of their human resources, especially that of the most vulnerable, and for the United Nations to continue to give priority to human resources development in developing countries,

Recognizing the importance accorded in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development to the human component of development, 1/

Recognizing also the importance of the Platform for Action adopted at the recently concluded Fourth World Conference on Women, 2/ held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on developing human resources for development; 3/

2. Emphasizes that, in the development of human resources, an overall, well-conceived and integrated approach which mainstreams a gender perspective and takes into account the needs of all people should be adopted, incorporating such vital areas of population, health, nutrition, water, sanitation, housing, communications, education and training, and science and technology, as well as taking into account the need to create more opportunities for employment in an environment that guarantees opportunities for political freedom, popular participation, respect for human rights, justice and equity, all of which are essential for enhancing human capacity to meet the challenge of development;

1/ See A/CONF.166/9, chap. I, resolution 1.

2/ See A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1.

3/ A/50/330 and Corr.1.

3. Encourages all countries to accord priority, in particular in national budgets, to human resources development in the context of the adoption of economic and social policies;

4. Also emphasizes the need to ensure the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of national policies to promote human resources development;

5. Calls upon the international community to support national efforts to develop human resources for development by increasing the priority of resources for those activities;

6. Calls upon the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to ensure the coordination of activities in support of national and regional action in the area of human resources development;

7. Emphasizes that structural adjustment programmes should include social development goals, in particular, the eradication of poverty, the promotion of full and productive employment and the enhancement of social integration;

8. Also emphasizes that Governments and relevant institutions should ensure, where appropriate, an adequate social safety net under structural adjustment programmes and should develop policies to reduce the negative effects of these programmes and to improve their positive impact, bearing in mind that social safety nets associated with economic restructuring are short term by nature and should be considered as complementary strategies;

9. Acknowledges the action taken thus far by the United Nations system in operational activities in the area of human resources development and urges further action in accordance with resolutions of the General Assembly on human resources for development;

10. Notes with serious concern the worrisome trend of a decrease in overall development assistance, which affects the level of resources for human resources development and emphasizes that financial commitment to human resources development is of critical importance in contributing to the enhancement of the concept of people-centred sustainable development;

11. Calls for follow-up action to be taken as recommended in the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and in the Beijing Platform for Action, in order to ensure the strengthening of human resources development;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to take into account the outcome of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in the context of human resources development;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the activities of the United Nations system in human resources development and to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including further action taken by the United Nations system with regard to human resources development and the enhancement of inter-agency coordination;

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session a sub-item entitled "Human resources development" under the item entitled "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation".

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.35

International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994 and 49/22 B of 20 December 1994,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1995/47 A and 1995/47 B of 27 July 1995,

Concerned about the continued threat posed by natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on vulnerable communities, including their environments, particularly in developing countries,

Concerned also about the continuing threat posed by natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment,

Recalling the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness, and Mitigation, adopted by the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, on 27 May 1994, 1/

1/ See A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, annex I.

Taking into account already existing early-warning capacities within the United Nations system, in particular within the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Conscious of the need to avoid duplication of work among United Nations bodies dealing with early-warning capacities,

Emphasizing that early warnings of impending natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment, linked to effective disaster preparedness measures and their effective dissemination, using, in particular, telecommunications, including broadcast services, are key factors to successful disaster prevention and preparedness,

Reaffirming that sustained economic growth and sustainable development are essential for the prevention of and preparedness for natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment and that special attention should be given to disaster prevention and preparedness by the Governments concerned as well as by the international community,

1. Notes the report of the Secretary-General on early-warning capacities of the United Nations system with regard to natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment; 2/

2. Commends the constructive inter-agency approach applied by the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, as part of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, and all concerned agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, which has led to this initial overview and analysis of early-warning concepts, capacities and gaps and to proposals for improvements in coordination and capacity-building with regard to such disasters;

3. Requests the Scientific and Technical Committee of the Decade to continue, within the scope of its work on early-warning capabilities, to examine and study new scientific and experimental concepts and methodologies for accurate and timely short-term forecasting of earthquakes, natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment with a view to making recommendations on their applicability and development in the context of international cooperation to improve preparedness for and minimize the risks of such disasters;

4. Takes note of the conclusions and proposals made by the Secretary-General in his report with respect to the improvement of early-warning capabilities, better international coordination in their use, and more effective and beneficial exchange of knowledge and technology;

5. Invites the Secretary-General, in particular, to facilitate, within the existing International Framework of Action for the International Decade for

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2/ A/50/526.

Natural Disaster Reduction, 3/ an internationally concerted framework for improvements in early-warning capacities by developing a concrete proposal for an effective international mechanism on early warning, to include the transfer of technologies related to early warning to developing countries, under the auspices of the United Nations and as part of the implementation of the Framework and the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action;

6. Also invites the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to make the early-warning data gathered under the United Nations auspices readily available to the decision makers concerned at the international, national, regional and subregional levels;

7. Encourages all Governments to undertake, with the full support of the United Nations system, regular reviews of early-warning requirements and capabilities at their national and community levels, within the framework of the development of national disaster reduction policies in order to enhance protection of their national populations and assets;

8. Calls on the secretariat of the Decade to continue to facilitate a concerted international approach to improvements in early-warning capacities for natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment, within the process leading towards the closing event of the Decade;

9. Recommends that donor countries give greater priority to disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation in their assistance programmes and budgets, on either a bilateral or multilateral basis, by, inter alia, increasing contributions to the Trust Fund for the Decade, and promote and facilitate the transfer of technologies related to early warning to developing countries within the framework of implementing the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action;

10. Encourages improved efforts, in the context of international technical assistance and cooperation within the framework of implementing the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action, towards facilitating the availability of appropriate technology and reliable data, along with the corresponding training, and access to network systems related to early warning, particularly to developing countries;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

3/ See General Assembly resolution 44/236, annex.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE 1990s

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.31

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/206 of 21 December 1990, in which it endorsed the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s 1/ and 49/98 of 19 December 1994, in which it decided to convene the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting of the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

Reaffirming the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action, whose prime objective is to arrest the further deterioration in the socio-economic situation of the least developed countries, to reactivate and accelerate growth and development in those countries and, in the process, to set them on the path of sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

Expressing serious concern that the least developed countries as a group have not been able to achieve many of the objectives of the Programme of Action and that their overall socio-economic situation has continued to deteriorate,

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1/ Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

Noting with concern the reduced flow of development resources to the least developed countries and the resulting need to accord them priority in the allocation of concessional resources, and their continued marginalization in world trade, as well as the fact that many least developed countries face serious debt problems and more than half are considered debt distressed,

Taking note of agreed conclusions 423 (XLI) of 31 March 1995 of the Trade and Development Board 2/ on the annual review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s which was underpinned by The Least Developed Countries 1995 Report, 3/

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General 4/ on the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

1. Reaffirms the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s 1/ as the basis for continuing cooperation between the least developed countries, which have the responsibility for their own development, and their development partners, based on shared responsibility and strengthened partnership, as well as its commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action;

2. Endorses the measures and recommendations contained in the report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, 5/ as annexed hereto, which are designed to ensure the full implementation of the Programme of Action over the second half of the decade;

3. Calls upon all Governments, international and multilateral organizations, financial institutions and development funds, the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, and all other organizations concerned to take immediate, concrete and adequate steps to implement the Programme of Action, taking full account of the measures and recommendations of the mid-term global review so as to ensure sustained economic growth and sustainable development in the least developed countries and enable them to participate in and benefit from the process of globalization and liberalization;

4. Notes that many least developed countries, for their part, have been implementing courageous and far-reaching policy reforms and adjustment measures in line with the Programme of Action, and in that regard emphasizes the need for national policies and measures aimed at establishing macroeconomic stability by

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2/ A/50/15 (Vol. I), chap. I, sect. B.

3/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.II.D.2.

4/ A/50/745.

5/ See A/50/745.

rationalizing public expenditure and adopting sound monetary and fiscal policies so as to ensure a dynamic private sector, by such means as providing a sound legal framework and improving human resource development, living standards, health and the status of women, and calls upon the international community to provide adequate support thereto;

5. Strongly urges all donor countries to implement fully and expeditiously their commitments in all relevant areas, including the agreed menu of aid targets and commitments as set out in the Programme of Action and support to reinforce structural adjustment reform, as well as the measures agreed upon at the mid-term global review so as to provide a significant and substantial increase in the aggregate level of external support for the least developed countries, keeping in mind the increased needs of those countries as well as the requirements of the countries added to the list of the least developed countries following the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

6. Stresses the critical importance of providing multilateral assistance for the least developed countries, in the form of grant-based multilateral programmes, and in that regard calls attention to the need to ensure adequate replenishment of the International Development Association and the soft-term windows of the regional development banks;

7. Emphasizes the serious debt problem of the least developed countries, which necessitates strengthened efforts to formulate an international debt strategy that should include concrete measures to alleviate the debt burden and increased concessional financing in support of appropriate economic policy measures, which will be critical to the revitalization of the growth and development of the least developed countries, and encourages the Bretton Woods institutions to expedite the ongoing consideration of ways to address the issue of multilateral debt, including those concerning the least developed countries;

8. Reiterates that increased opportunities for trade can help reactivate economic growth in the least developed countries, calls for significantly improved market access for their products, and emphasizes the importance of applying effectively the provisions of the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, 6/ and further emphasizes in that context the importance of taking concrete action, as appropriate, to fully and expeditiously implement the Marrakesh Declaration 6/ as it relates to the least developed countries and the ministerial decision on measures in favour of the least developed countries, as well as the measures agreed at the mid-term global review, with a view to enabling the least developed countries to maximize their benefit from the Final Act and to cope with any adverse effects arising therefrom;

9. Also reiterates the importance attached to the implementation of the ministerial decision on measures concerning possible negative effects of reform

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6/ See Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994 (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

programmes on the least developed countries and net food importing developing countries;

10. Reaffirms the importance of the follow-up and monitoring mechanisms for implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels as crucial to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

11. Recalls that in its resolution 49/98, it invited the Secretary-General to make recommendations to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, with a view to ensuring that the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development had sufficient capacity to undertake an effective follow-up of the outcome of the mid-term global review and to follow up the conclusions and recommendations relating to the least developed countries adopted by major global conferences, and in this regard takes note of the relevant proposals of the Secretary-General related to the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997;

12. Emphasizes the importance of the annual reviews by the Trade and Development Board of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action, and the pressing need for enabling representatives of the least developed countries to participate in such annual reviews, and to that end requests the Secretary-General to defray the cost of participation of representatives of least developed countries by mobilizing extrabudgetary resources for that purpose and by reallocating existing resources of the regular budget, if required;

13. Recalls that at the end of the decade, a global review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the 1990s will be carried out, in accordance with paragraph 140 of the Programme of Action and operative paragraph 7 (c) of General Assembly resolution 45/206 regarding the consideration by the Assembly at its fifty-second session of the holding of a third United Nations conference on the least developed countries.

14. Calls upon the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its ninth session to take into account the outcome of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.17

International trade and development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 1/ the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 2/ the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, 3/ the Programme of Action for the Least

1/ Resolution S-18/3, annex.

2/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

3/ Resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

Developed Countries for the 1990s, 4/ the Cartagena Commitment, 5/ Agenda 21, 6/ and the various agreements that provide an overall policy framework for sustained economic growth and sustainable development in order to address the challenges of the 1990s,

Recalling its resolutions 1995 (XIX) of 30 December 1964, as amended, 7/ on the establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as an organ of the General Assembly, 47/183 of 22 December 1992 on the eighth session of the Conference, and 48/55 of 10 December 1993 and 49/99 of 19 December 1994 on international trade and development,

Welcoming the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Noting the progress made by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the implementation of the outcome of its eighth session, in particular its contribution, within its mandate, to trade and development,

Emphasizing the importance of an open, rule-based, equitable, secure, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable multilateral trading system,

Emphasizing also that a favourable and conducive international economic and financial environment and a positive investment climate are necessary for the economic growth of the world economy, including the creation of employment, in particular for the sustained economic growth and sustainable development of the developing countries, and emphasizing further that each country is responsible for its own economic policies for development,

Welcoming the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations at the Ministerial Meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee, held at Marrakesh, Morocco, from 12 to 15 April 1994, and noting that the Uruguay Round agreements 8/ represent a historic achievement, which is expected to contribute to strengthening the world economy and to lead to more

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4/ Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

5/ See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Eighth Session, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.II.D.5), part one, sect. A.

6/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

7/ See resolutions 2904 A (XXVII), 31/2 A and B and 34/3.

8/ Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994 (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

trade, investment, employment and income growth throughout the world and in particular to the promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in particular in the developing countries,

Emphasizing the importance of strengthening and attaining a greater universality of the international trading system and welcoming the process directed towards the accession of economies in transition and developing countries that are non-members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade into the World Trade Organization thereby contributing to their rapid and full integration into the multilateral trading system,

Noting the assessment and recommendations adopted at the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, held in New York from 25 September to 6 October 1995,

Noting also that the Uruguay Round agreements should lead to, inter alia, a substantial liberalization of international trade, the strengthening of multilateral rules and disciplines to ensure more stability and predictability in trade relations, and the establishing of rules and disciplines in new areas, and noting further the founding of a new institutional framework in the form of the World Trade Organization, with an integrated dispute settlement mechanism which should prevent the application of unilateral actions against international trade rules,

Recognizing that the developing countries have made a major contribution to the success of the Uruguay Round, in particular by accepting the challenges of trade liberalization reforms and measures, and stressing that there is a need for positive efforts designed to ensure that developing countries, especially the least developed among them, secure a share in the growth in international trade commensurate with their economic development needs,

Recognizing also that the subregional and regional economic integration processes, including those among developing countries, which have intensified in recent years, impart substantial dynamism to global trade and enhance trade and development possibilities for all countries, and stressing that in order to maintain the positive aspects of such integration arrangements and to assure the prevalence of their dynamic growth effects, Member States and groupings should be outward oriented and supportive of the multilateral trading system,

Expressing concern about possible adverse effects of the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements for the least developed countries, particularly those in Africa and net food importing countries arising from the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements, as included in the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, 9/ signed at Marrakesh, and recognizing the need to assist those disadvantaged developing countries so that they benefit fully from the implementation of the Uruguay Round,

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9/ Ibid., vol. 1.

Welcoming the generous offer of the Government of South Africa to act as host for the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Recognizing the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in identifying and analysing new and emerging issues in the international trade agenda in accordance with agreed conclusions 410 (XL) of 29 April 1994 of the Trade and Development Board on the Uruguay Round, 10/ agreed conclusions 419 (XLI) of 30 September 1994 of the Board on the Uruguay Round, 11/ and decision 426 of _____ of the Board, 12/ as well as with the provisional agenda for the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 13/

Noting the importance of the inaugural Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, scheduled to take place in Singapore in December 1996,

Stressing the need to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how in particular to the developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as well as the special needs of the developing countries in the implementation of Agenda 21,

Taking note with satisfaction of the recommendation on trade, environment and sustainable development made by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session, 14/ and recognizing, in the spirit of a new global partnership for sustainable development, the need for a balanced and integrated approach to environment, trade and development issues,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Trade and Development Board on the second part of its forty-first session 15/ and the first part of its forty-second session, 16/ and calls upon all States to take appropriate action to implement the outcome of those sessions;

10/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/49/15), part one, chap. II, sect. A.

11/ See A/49/15 (Vol. II), chap. I, sect. A.

12/ See A/50/15 (Vol. II), chap. __, sect. __.

13/ See A/50/15 (Vol. I), chap. I, sect. A.

14/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32), chap. I, paras. 47-72.

15/ A/50/15 (Vol. I).

16/ A/50/15 (Vol. II).

2. Also takes note of the Trade and Development Report, 1995, 17/ and recognizes the contribution such reports have made to the international trade and development dialogue;

3. Emphasizes the importance of follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the policies and measures contained in the Cartagena Commitment, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 8 to 25 February 1992;

4. Stresses the urgent need to continue trade liberalization, including liberalization through a substantial reduction of tariff and other barriers, in particular non-tariff barriers, to trade and the elimination of discriminatory and protectionist practices in international trade relations, and to improve access to the markets of all countries, in particular those of the developed countries, in order to generate sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

5. Also stresses the need for the full integration of the economies in transition, as well as other countries, into the world economy, in particular through improved market access for their exports and elimination of discriminatory tariff and non-tariff measures and further liberalization of their trade regimes, including vis-à-vis developing countries, and recognizes in this respect the importance of open regional economic integration of interested economies in transition among themselves as well as with developed and/or developing countries in creating new possibilities for expanding trade and investment;

6. Further stresses the importance of the timely and full implementation of the agreements contained in the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations and the significance of the entering into force of the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization 18/ on 1 January 1995;

7. Emphasizes the importance of the full and continuing implementation of the provisions contained in the Final Act that confer special and differential treatment for developing countries, including decisions giving special attention to the situation of the least developed countries and the net food importing developing countries;

8. Notes the work that has been undertaken jointly and separately by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Trade Organization on the impact of the Uruguay Round on developing countries, and looks forward to the integration of this analysis into discussions, including those at the ministerial conferences;

17/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.II.D.16.

18/ See Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994 (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7), vols. 1 and 27-31.

9. Invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its ninth session to transmit its assessment on challenges and opportunities arising from the Uruguay Round agreements from a development perspective to the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization;

10. Emphasizes the need for continued review and evaluation of the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements to ensure that the benefits of the evolving multilateral trade system promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

11. Also emphasizes the significance of the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, to be held in Singapore in December 1996, in helping to set the future direction of a rule-based multilateral trading system;

12. Deplores any attempt to bypass or undermine multilaterally agreed measures of trade liberalization, through resort to unilateral actions, over and above those agreed to in the Uruguay Round, and reaffirms that environmental and social concerns should not be used for protectionist purposes;

13. Notes the work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on trade and environment, in particular, the outcome of its Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade, Environment and Development, and also notes the work of the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization;

14. Also notes the progress achieved by the joint United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Conference on Trade and Development programme in the consideration of trade and environment issues and invites the two organizations to continue their work in accordance with paragraph 59 of chapter I of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its third session; 19/

15. Reaffirms the need as a matter of priority to implement the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, taking into account the assessment and recommendations adopted at the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, held in New York from 25 September to 6 October 1995;

16. Emphasizes the urgent need for assistance to African countries, inter alia, for evaluation of the impact of the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations and to enable them to identify and implement adaptive measures to enhance their competitiveness;

17. Requests preference-giving countries to improve their preferential schemes, and invites the 1996 Policy Review on the Generalized System of Preferences to examine possible adaptations to the system, taking into account paragraphs 134 to 140 of the Cartagena Commitment, as well as the results of the Uruguay Round;

19/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32).

18. Reaffirms the role that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has been playing as the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of development and interrelated issues in the areas of trade, finance, technology, investment, services and sustainable development and, within this context, stresses that there should be constructive and effective cooperation between the Conference and the World Trade Organization, based on the complementarity of their functions;

19. Decides to enable the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to discharge its mandate, thereby making it a more effective and efficient instrument for promoting development;

20. Recognizes that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its ninth session will, inter alia, consider the future role of the Conference, including its relationship with other international institutions, to generate synergies among them and, on the basis of the mandate of the Conference and with a view to strengthening the United Nations system, the Conference should be enabled to become a more effective instrument for promoting development;

21. Invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to consider, in close cooperation with other competent organizations, new and emerging issues on the international trade agenda, taking into account the new multilateral trade framework with a view to fostering international consensus-building among Member States in such areas as trade and environment, and competition policy, and, in this regard, recognizes the role of the Conference in preparing the background work and consensus-building on such issues in accordance with the agreed conclusions 410 (XL) and 419 (XLI) and decision 426 of the Trade and Development Board;

22. Also invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in close cooperation with other competent organizations, to follow developments in the international trading system, in particular their implications for developing countries, and identify new trading opportunities arising from the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements in order to provide information and technical support with a view to facilitating the integration of those countries into the system and to assist them in taking full advantage of new trading opportunities, in accordance with agreed conclusions 410 (XL) of the Trade and Development Board;

23. Requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to monitor, analyse and review the development of trade between economies in transition and developing countries and to recommend appropriate measures for its revival, thus contributing to the strengthening of the multilateral trading system;

24. Welcomes the measures taken by the secretariats of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Trade Organization and invites them to continue to develop their working relationship, mutual cooperation and complementarity;

25. Emphasizes the importance to the international trading system of the inclusion in multilateral trade agreements of all countries that are not members of the World Trade Organization, and urges the international community to assist appropriately and adequately those countries that are not members of the World Trade Organization in the steps towards acceding to that organization;

26. Requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and invites the World Trade Organization, in accordance with their respective mandates and competence and in close cooperation with other competent United Nations bodies and the regional commissions, to address trade and environment matters comprehensively and to report, through the Commission on Sustainable Development, to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly at its special session in 1997 on the concrete progress achieved on the issue of trade and environment;

27. Also requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue its special role in the field of trade and environment, including analytical and empirical work, conceptual and empirical studies, policy analysis, and consensus-building, with a view to ensuring transparency and coherence in making environmental and trade policies mutually supportive, taking into account the need for continued close cooperation and complementarity in the work of the Conference, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Trade Organization;

28. Further requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to focus and intensify, where necessary, its technical assistance in the light of the Uruguay Round agreements, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, in particular the International Trade Centre and the World Trade Organization, with the aim of increasing the capacities of developing countries, especially the least developed countries, African countries, and small island developing States, so that they may participate effectively in the international trading system;

29. Further requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to provide technical assistance to economies in transition, bearing in mind the needs of developing countries, in particular with regard to their full integration into the multilateral trading system, so as to contribute to the expansion of external trade, inter alia, with developing countries.

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MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS: FINANCING OF DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Max Stadthagen (Nicaragua), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.15

Sources for the financing of development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990,

Recalling its resolution 45/234 of 21 December 1990 on the implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries,

Recalling also its resolution 48/187 of 21 December 1993, particularly as its relates to the decision to continue to explore the issue of the financing of development and its potential funding sources,

Decides to consider at the fifty-second session of the General Assembly the convening of an international conference on the financing of development and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on substantive areas, including the consideration of aspects of interrelatedness and coordination necessary as a basis for the full consideration of the issue of financing of development and its potential funding sources.

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MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS: EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Max Stadthagen (Nicaragua), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.7

Enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 41/202 of 8 December 1986, 42/198 of 11 December 1987, 43/198 of 20 December 1988, 44/205 of 22 December 1989, 45/214 of 21 December 1990, 46/148 and 46/151 of 18 December 1991 and 47/198 of 22 December 1992, and reaffirming its resolutions 48/182 of 21 December 1993 and 49/94 of 19 December 1994,

Reaffirming its resolution 48/165 of 21 December 1993 on the renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership and 48/166 of 21 December 1993 on an agenda for development,

Noting the improvement in the debt situation of a number of developing countries since the second half of the 1980s and the contribution that the evolving debt strategy has made to this improvement,

Noting with appreciation the debt-relief measures undertaken by creditor countries both within the framework of the Paris Club and through their cancellation and equivalent relief of bilateral official debt, and welcoming the even more favourable terms of the debt-relief measures recently envisaged by the Paris Club, namely the Naples terms of December 1994, for the poorest and

heavily indebted countries, to help them exit from the rescheduling process, thus contributing to the prospects of those countries for resuming growth and development,

Reaffirming the urgent need for effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, and to help them exit from the rescheduling process,

Emphasizing the importance for debtor countries of continuing to pursue and intensify their efforts with respect to economic reforms, stabilization and structural adjustment programmes, in order to raise savings and investments, reduce inflation and improve economic efficiency, taking into account the need to address the social aspects of development, including the eradication of poverty, and their individual characteristics, as well as the vulnerability of the poorer strata of their populations,

Stressing the urgent need for further assisting developing countries, in particular the poorest and heavily indebted countries, especially in Africa, in their efforts to improve their debt situation in view of their continued very high level of total debt stock and servicing burdens,

Noting the urgent need for full, constructive and expeditious implementation of various debt-relief measures undertaken by creditor countries both within the framework of the Paris Club and through their cancellations and equivalent relief of bilateral official debt,

Noting also that, owing to uneven developments within the context of the evolving international debt strategy, further progress, including new and concrete measures and innovative approaches, is essential as regards contributing to effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, particularly the poorest and heavily indebted countries,

Noting with concern the continuing debt and debt-servicing problems of indebted developing countries as constituting an element adversely affecting their development efforts and economic growth, and stressing the importance of alleviating the onerous debt and debt-service burdens connected with various types of debt of many developing countries, on the basis of an effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable approach and, where appropriate, addressing the full stock of debt of the poorest and most indebted developing countries as a matter of priority,

Noting that multilateral lending operations are excluded from debt restructuring and, in this regard, emphasizing the need for the consideration of comprehensive approaches to assist low-income countries with substantial multilateral debt problems through the flexible implementation of existing instruments and new mechanisms where necessary,

Expressing its concern that, in a number of developing countries that are making continuous and strenuous economic reform efforts, the burden of debt and debt service continues to constitute a major obstacle to the revitalization of

the economic growth and development of those countries, in particular the least developed among them,

Noting that those developing countries that have continued, at great cost to themselves, to meet their international debt and debt-service obligations in a timely fashion have done so despite serious external and domestic financial constraints,

Expressing its concern that debt-relief measures taken so far have not yet fully provided effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the outstanding debt and debt-servicing problems of a large number of developing countries, in particular the poorest and heavily indebted countries,

Reaffirming the results, as agreed, of all major United Nations conferences and summits held since the beginning of the 1990s on development, relating to effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, as well as the consideration of appropriate measures relating to the mobilization of substantial, new and additional resources to enable developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

Noting, while addressing the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, the situation in some creditor countries with economies in transition,

Stressing the need for continuing global economic growth and the necessity for a continuing supportive international economic environment with regard to, inter alia, terms of trade, commodity prices, improved market access, trade practices, access to technology, exchange rates and international interest rates, and noting the continued need for resources for sustained economic growth and sustainable development of the developing countries,

Taking note of the results of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 18 to 20 October 1995, in particular, chapter III, entitled "Economic issues", of the Final Document of the Conference, 1/

Taking note also of the Communiqué of the Halifax Summit of the Group of Seven major industrialized countries, 2/ held at Halifax, Canada, from 15 to 17 June 1995,

Taking note further of the communiqué of the Interim Committee of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund, held at Washington, D.C., United States of America, on 8 October 1995,

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1/ To be issued.

2/ A/50/254-S/1995/501, annex I.

Taking note further of the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 3/ adopted at the nineteenth annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China, held in New York on 29 September 1995,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the developing country debt situation as of mid-1995; 4/

2. Recognizes that effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt servicing-problems of developing countries can contribute substantially to the strengthening of the global economy and to the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

3. Also recognizes that the evolving international debt strategy has to be supplemented by appropriate external financial flows to indebted developing countries;

4. Emphasizes the importance for developing countries of continuing their efforts to promote a favourable environment for attracting foreign investment, thereby promoting economic growth and sustainable development, and stresses the need for the international community to promote a conducive external economic environment through, inter alia, improved market access, stabilization of exchange rates, effective stewardship of international interest rates and increased resource flows, as well as improved access to technology for the developing countries;

5. Stresses the need of finding effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the continuing debt and debt-servicing problems of the poorest and most indebted developing countries and the importance of a full, constructive and expeditious implementation of the Naples terms, agreed upon in the Paris Club in December 1994, for such countries, with a view to helping them exit from the rescheduling process on the basis of sound economic policies in these countries, thus contributing to the promotion of their prospects for resuming growth and development;

6. Recognizes the efforts of indebted developing countries in fulfilling their commitments on debt servicing despite the incurring of a high social cost and, in this regard, encourages private creditors and, in particular, commercial banks to continue their initiatives and efforts to address the commercial debt problems of middle-income developing countries;

7. Invites creditor countries, private banks and multilateral financial institutions, within their prerogatives, to consider continuing the initiatives and efforts to address the commercial debt problems of the least developed countries and the requests for continued mobilization of resources through the Debt-reduction Facility of the International Development Association in order to help eligible least developed countries reduce their commercial debt;

3/ A/50/518, annex.

4/ A/50/379.

8. Notes the high proportion of multilateral debt of a number of developing countries and invites international financial institutions to examine proposals to tackle the problems of those countries with regard to multilateral debt, taking into account the specific situation of each country, while preserving the preferred creditor status of the multilateral financial institutions, in order to ensure that they can continue to provide concessional financing to those developing countries to assist their development;

9. Reaffirms the mid-term global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, in particular the appropriate actions in favour of least developed countries concerning their official bilateral, commercial and multilateral debt;

10. Notes with concern the continuing burden of debt and debt-service obligations of middle-income countries, including in particular those in Africa, and encourages creditors, including multilateral financial institutions and commercial banks, to continue to address their obligations effectively;

11. Stresses the importance of continued concessional Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility lending operations for low-income countries;

12. Also stresses the need for existing facilities to provide debt-relief measures through various debt conversion programmes, where possible, such as debt-equity swaps, debt-for-nature swaps, debt-for-child-development swaps, and other debt-for-development swaps, to be widely implemented so that the countries concerned may be ably assisted in their development efforts, as well as to support measures in favour of the most vulnerable segments of the societies of those countries and to develop techniques of debt conversion applied to social development programmes and projects, in conformity with the priorities of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in March 1995;

13. Further stresses the need for, in addition to debt-relief measures that include debt and debt-service reduction, new financial flows to debtor developing countries, and urges creditor countries and multilateral financial institutions to continue to extend concessional financial assistance, particularly to the least developed countries, in order to support the implementation of economic reforms, stabilization and structural adjustment programmes and the eradication of poverty by the developing countries so as to enable them to extricate themselves from the debt overhang and to assist them in achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

14. Further stresses the need for the expeditious conclusion of the ongoing work of the International Monetary Fund, in close collaboration with the World Bank, on the steps to address the problems of those low-income countries that are undertaking strong adjustment and reform programmes but whose debt situation, including debt to multilateral institutions, may prove unsustainable, even after debt reduction on the Naples terms, within this context urging donor countries to fulfil promptly their commitments to the tenth replenishment of the International Development Association and to support a significant replenishment through the eleventh replenishment of the Association, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session

on the outcome of the meeting of the Development Committee scheduled for April 1996;

15. Notes the initiative to develop new, parallel financing arrangements, complementary to the General Arrangements to Borrow, with the aim of doubling the resources currently available under the General Arrangements;

16. Recognizes that the evolving debt strategy must be accompanied by a favourable and supportive international environment, including the full implementation of the results of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, and the Marrakesh ministerial decisions in favour of the least developed countries and net food importing developing countries; 5/

17. Invites the International Monetary Fund to continue devising concrete policy measures and actions to address the problems faced by indebted developing countries;

18. Underscores the need for encouragement of private flows to all countries, in particular developing countries, while reducing the risks of volatility;

19. Stresses the urgent need to continue to provide social safety nets to vulnerable groups most adversely affected by the implementation of economic reform programmes in the debtor countries, in particular low-income groups;

20. Urges the international community, particularly the creditor countries and multilateral institutions, as well as commercial banks and other lending institutions, when continuing the implementation of various measures aimed at contributing to the effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, as well as when exploring the need for additional and innovative measures to alleviate substantially the external debt and debt-service burden of developing countries, to ensure that the debt strategy evolved through the years is fully implemented and taken into account;

21. Recognizes the urgent need for the international community to assist developing countries, in particular the poorest and heavily indebted countries, in mobilizing the resources needed for their development efforts, and also recognizes that effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries could contribute towards releasing domestic resources and sustaining their development efforts, in particular those for social development;

22. Calls upon the international community, including the relevant institutions, to build upon the momentum gained from the various meetings that have addressed debt issues and to address the external debt and debt-servicing

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5/ See Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994 (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

problems of developing countries, particularly those of the least developed countries, in the elaboration of an agenda for development;

23. Also calls upon the international community including the United Nations system, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as the private sector, to take urgent measures and action for the implementation of the commitments, agreements and decisions of the major United Nations conferences and summits organized since the beginning of the 1990s on development, addressing, inter alia, and where appropriate, the question of external debt;

24. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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Agenda item 95

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.40

Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 49/107 of 19 December 1994 on the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, in which it requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the resolution,

Reaffirming also paragraph 2 of its resolution 49/102 of 19 December 1994,

Stressing the renewed urgency for promoting industrialization as a key element in the development of developing countries and the important role of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, which is undergoing a process of reform, and recalling the declarations of the Group of 77, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of African Unity, on 29 September 1995, 1/ 20 October 1995 and 28 June 1995, respectively, on the essential role of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in this regard,

Recognizing the need for enhanced cooperation between African countries, the United Nations system and other bilateral and multilateral financial institutions, as well as African regional and subregional organizations, in the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade,

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1/ A/50/518, annex.

Recognizing also the important role of industrialization in promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable development in Africa in the context of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, 2/

Recognizing further the importance of intercontinental, interregional, regional and subregional cooperation in the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade,

Noting the far-reaching implications of the fundamental developments in the international environment for development cooperation, including the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, and for the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade, as well as the need for concerted national and international action to enable African countries to cope with the challenges posed by, and benefit fully from, the opportunities provided by recent developments in international trade, among other things, and the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in this regard,

Emphasizing the continuing need for the mobilization of adequate resources through domestic and international initiatives for the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade, including a favourable climate for foreign direct investment, private sector development, small and medium-sized enterprises and enhanced market access;

Recognizing the need for African countries to use both human and financial resources more effectively in the process of industrialization;

Noting with appreciation the various regional and subregional initiatives and meetings that have taken place, including the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, held at Gaborone, Botswana from 6 to 8 June 1995, and the contribution made by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in convening and organizing industrial investment forums aimed at the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002); 3/

2. Emphasizes the importance of industrial development cooperation and a positive investment and business climate, at the international, regional, subregional and national levels, in promoting the expansion, diversification and modernization of productive capacities in developing countries;

3. Requests the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Economic Commission for Africa, as well as the Organization of African Unity and all other partners in the development process, to continue to play an active and more effective role in

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2/ Resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

3/ A/50/487.

the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade, bearing in mind the undertakings made in this regard in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

4. Encourages African Governments to strengthen national committees for the Second Decade in order to monitor its implementation effectively and to fashion effective policy responses to the challenges and the demands posed and the opportunities offered by changes in the domestic and international environment for industrialization;

5. Emphasizes the continuing need for technical and financial assistance from the United Nations system and from bilateral and multilateral sources to complement the efforts of African countries in achieving the objectives of the Second Decade, as well as the need for African countries to enhance cooperation among themselves in the areas of industrial policy, institutional development, human resources development, technology and investments;

6. Requests the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to facilitate the exchange of information among African Governments on activities carried out nationally in collaboration with the United Nations system and with the support of bilateral and multilateral partners in connection with the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade as a contribution to subsequent reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme;

7. Calls upon the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity to enhance their assistance and coordinate their activities in human resources development for industry, with a view to improving the competitiveness of the industrial sector in Africa in the light of the globalization of production and the growth of related trade, investment and technology flows;

8. Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with all the relevant organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, to take into account the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade when preparing for the mid-term review, in 1996, of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE 1990s

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/50/L.72

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 12 of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.72, the General Assembly would: "Emphasize the importance of the annual reviews by the Trade and Development Board of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action, and the pressing need for enabling representatives of the least developed countries to participate in such annual reviews, and to that end request the Secretary-General to defray the cost of participation of representatives of least developed countries by mobilizing extrabudgetary resources for that purpose and by reallocating existing resources of the regular budget, if required".

2. The above request is related to major programme IV (International economic cooperation for development), programme 15 (Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes), subprogramme 1 (Least developed countries) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. 1/ It is also related to section 10A (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), programme 15 (Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes), subprogramme 1 (Least developed countries) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. 2/

3. It is understood that this request would involve the payment of travel and subsistence expenses to one representative from each least developed country, and as such would constitute an exception to the rules governing payment of travel and subsistence allowances in respect of members of principal organs of the United Nations and subsidiary bodies.

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4. The cost of the participation of representatives of the least developed countries in the meetings specified above is estimated at $433,000.

5. In accordance with the proposal that extrabudgetary resources should be mobilized, the Secretary-General intends to seek additional voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Participation of Least Developed Countries in Intergovernmental Meetings, which was established in 1995 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/98, in order to meet the travel requirements for the participation of one representative from each least developed country at the annual meetings of the Trade and Development Board.

6. It would not be possible to reallocate resources from other areas of the regular budget, as resources have been budgeted for programmed activities under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

7. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.72: (a) an exception would have to be made to the rules governing the payment of travel and subsistence expenses to members of principal organs of the United Nations and subsidiary bodies; and (b) it would be the intention of the Secretary-General to mobilize extrabudgetary resources under the Trust Fund for the Participation of Least Developed Countries in Intergovernmental Meetings so as to finance the travel requirements of one representative from each least developed country for participating at the annual meetings of the Trade and Development Board.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

2/ Ibid., Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/50/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

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Agenda item 96 (a)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.23

Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, in which it decided to convene, not later than 1997, a special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, 1/

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General containing proposals on the format, scope and organizational aspects of such a special session, 2/

1. Decides to convene the special session envisaged in resolution 47/190 for a duration of one week during the month of June 1997 at the highest possible level of participation;

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

2/ A/50/453.

2. Encourages participants at the high-level meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development to be held during its fourth session, in 1996, to address, inter alia, matters related to the special session of the General Assembly decided on above;

3. Invites the Commission to devote its Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group meeting, to be held in February 1997, to assisting the Commission in undertaking the review for the special session;

4. Welcomes the decision of the Commission to devote its fifth session, in 1997, to preparations for the special session, and decides that that session of the Commission will be open-ended in its deliberations, allowing for the full participation of all States;

5. Invites the Commission to make available to the Assembly at the special session all relevant reports prepared under the aegis of the Commission, along with the recommendations of the Commission thereon;

6. Welcomes the decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which the Council emphasized the need for the Programme, in accordance with its mandate in the implementation of Agenda 21, to continue to provide effective support to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in which the Council decided to hold its nineteenth session early in 1997 with a view to making a contribution to the special session;

7. Invites Governments as well as relevant regional and subregional organizations to consider undertaking reviews of progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at the national, subregional, regional and interregional levels with a view to contributing to the preparations for the special session;

8. Welcomes the preparation of hemispheric, regional and subregional conferences on sustainable development, and in that context invites the Governments concerned to contribute to the special session the outcomes of such conferences;

9. Also invites all other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the specialized agencies and other multilateral organizations, including the multilateral financial institutions and the World Trade Organization, to contribute to the special session, and requests the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, in close coordination with the Commission on Sustainable Development, to ensure an effective and coordinated system-wide response to the preparation of the special session;

10. Further invites the conferences of parties or other regulatory bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, as well as the regulatory bodies of other relevant

instruments, as appropriate, and the Global Environment Facility, to provide their inputs to the special session;

11. Recognizes the important role played by major groups, including non-governmental organizations, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and in the implementation of its recommendations, and recognizes the need for their active involvement in preparations for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements for their contribution during the special session;

12. Invites Governments to assist the developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, in participating fully and effectively in the special session and its preparatory process, and in that regard invites them to make appropriate contributions to the Trust Fund to Support the Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, for the consideration of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session, a comprehensive report containing an overall assessment of the progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the implementation of Agenda 21 at all levels, 1/ and in the implementation of related outcomes, as well as recommendations for future actions and priorities, and requests that the report include:

(a) Concise reports containing an assessment of the progress achieved in specific sectoral and cross-sectoral areas;

(b) Country profiles providing a concise presentation of progress made and constraints encountered in implementing Agenda 21 at the national level, compiled on the basis of national information received and in close cooperation with the Governments concerned;

(c) Major and emerging trends and issues within the framework of Agenda 21 and related outcomes of the Conference in the area of sustainable development, including the environmental impact of activities that are gravely hazardous to the environment, taking into account the views of States;

(d) Recommendations on the future role of the Commission in the follow-up to the outcome of the Conference and related outcomes, building on experience gained since 1992;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to mount a public information programme to raise global awareness of both the special session to review the implementation of Agenda 21 and the work undertaken by the United Nations in the follow-up to the Conference;

15. Decides that the preparations for the special session and the special session itself shall be kept within the agreed appropriation level for the 1996-1997 biennium;

16. Decides to include a sub-item entitled "Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21" in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at that session a progress report on the state of preparations for the 1997 special session.